An Extract of a Letter

Written to the Publiſher from Plymouth Novem. 2. 1669. *by* William Durſton *Dr. of Phyſick; concerning the Death of the Bigg-breaſted Woman* (*diſcourſed of in* Numb. 52.) *together with what was thereupon obſerved in her Body.*

Sir,

I Thank you for yours, which by reaſon of my abſence came not to my hands till this day. *Elizabeth Travers* dyed on Thurſday night, *October* 21. The next morning I ſent for a Chirurgion, and ſome others to be preſent at the opening, and taking off of her Breaſts; though we only took off one, *viz.* the biggeſt, which was the left, and having weighed it, we found it of *Sixty four* pounds weight. Upon the opening of it, (which we made in ſeveral places) we could find neither Water, nor Cancerous humors, nor any thing vitious, more than the prodigious bigneſs; and the *Tubuli* and Parenchymous fleſh were purely white and ſolid, and no other than what we ſee in the ſoundeſt Breaſts of Women, or the beſt Udders of other Animals. She had loſt her ſtomach and reſt ſeverall weeks before, and made great complaints of her Breaſts from their great diſtenſion; and her whole Body was exceedingly emaciated. I have ſent you incloſed *one* meaſure, which was the *Breadth* of her two Breaſts (as ſhe was layd out on a Table being dead;) I mean, from the further end of the one to the other; which you'l find *three foot two Inches* and *an halfe*; and *another* meaſure, ſhewing the *Circumference* of the Breaſts *long*-wiſe, *viz. four foot*, and near *four* inches; and a *third*, giving the *Circumference* of the *Breadth*, *viz. three foot four inches* and *an halfe*.

The right Breaſt we took not off, but we gueſs, it weighed *fourty* pounds. I did ſome weeks ſince begin a Salivation with her, which leſſen'd her Breaſts in circumference ſome inches; but ſhe proving not conformable, I durſt not proceed to keep up the flux, but was forc'd to deſiſt. But ſhe was wonderfully revived afterwards for ſome time. She being weary of that courſe, I then cauſed a *Cauſtic* to be applyed; upon which the *Eſchar* falling off, yet nothing iſſued out of the Breaſt.

Then

Then I cauſed an Inciſion-knife to be uſed, and made an Inciſion two inches and an halfe deep (ſuppoſing the Cauſtick had not wrought deep enough) but 'twas to no more purpoſe, than the former.

An Accompt of ſome Books.

I. *CERTAIN PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYES, and other TRACTS, by the Honorable ROBERT BOYLE, Fellow of the R. Society. The Second Edition, enlarged.* London; *printed for* Henry Herringman *in the New Exchange. A.* 1669.

WE could not but give the Curious Reader notice of this reprinted and in divers places conſiderably enriched Book; but chiefly increaſed by the Addition of a very Philoſophical Diſcourſe about the *Abſolute Reſt in Bodies*, wherein the Noble Author, with his uſual modeſty as well as acuteneſs, delivers his Thoughts concerning the Inteſtin Motions of the Particles of *Quieſcent Solids*, and in doing ſo calls the *Abſolute Reſt* of Bodies in Queſtion, by undertaking to prove, That ſome of thoſe Bodies, which we think have their parts *moſt* at Reſt, are not exempted from having internal Motions in them; to which proof he Judgeth 'twill be conſequent, that it muſt be probable, that in other Bodies, whoſe Solidity is confeſſed inferiour, the component Particles are not in a State of *Perfect* Reſt.

II. *DEL MOVIMENTO DELLA COMETA, apparſa il meſe di Dicembre* 1664. *da PIETRO MARIA MUTOLI, in* Piſa, *in* 4°.

THis, and the next following Tract, (conſiſting each of a few ſheets only) ſhould ſooner have been taken notice of in theſe *Tranſactions*, if they had ſooner come to our